

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 151
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to name the bridge on State Route 75 at the intersection of Armentrout Road in Washington County in honor of First Lieutenant Richard 'Dick' Sherfey Deakins.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges in honor of those heroic exemplary members of the United States armed forces who have given their lives in service to their country in time of war; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late First Lieutenant Richard 'Dick' Sherfey Deakins of the Sulphur Springs Community in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Richard Sherfey Deakins was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Deakins, Sr. and was a graduate of Sulphur Springs High School and the University of Tennessee, where he majored in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, on March 31, 1942, Dick Deakins joined the United States Army Air Force and was commissioned as a combat pilot at Brooks Field, Texas in January 1943; following completion of an initial overseas tour of duty, he came home for a 30-day leave before returning for a second overseas tour of duty in Italy; and

WHEREAS, by the time of his death in combat at age 25, First Lieutenant Dick Deakins was a veteran of 50 missions over Italian, Austrian and Balkan territory as a P-51 pilot in World War II; he had six victories over enemy aircraft while firing fewer than 2000 actual rounds of ammunition and was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters and a group Presidential citation with one cluster; and

WHEREAS, Dick Deakins was a person of great personal courage, impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, who selflessly gave his life to protect our nation, our way of life and our personal freedom from those who would deprive us of them; and

WHEREAS, in appreciation of First Lieutenant Dick Deakins' unquestioned valor and the sacrifice of his life in time of war, this General Assembly proposes to name the bridge on State Route (S.R.) 75 at the intersection of Armentrout Road in Washington County to permanently commemorate First Lieutenant Richard 'Dick' Sherfey Deakins; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the bridge on S.R. 75 at its intersection with Armentrout Road in Washington County is hereby designated as the the "First Lieutenant Richard 'Dick' Sherfey Deakins Memorial Bridge" in recognition of a brave officer of the United States Army Air Force who, in giving his life for his country, exemplified the true spirit of the Volunteer State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such bridge on SR 75 as the "First Lieutenant Richard 'Dick' Sherfey Deakins Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with TCA Section 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.